

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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‘Zero Tolerance’ Group Begins Work

*Chairman Davis and Red Sox Star Curt Schilling Join Conference Call With
Representatives of All Major Sports, Medical Experts, Youth Coaches*

Washington, D.C. – House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) joined Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling and a cross-section of representatives from the four major American sports, the medical community, and youth sports in a Monday conference call to set the stage for Zero Tolerance, which has been formed to address the growing problem of steroid abuse by youth.

“We must confront the problem of steroid use on many levels,” Davis said. “There may be some things we do legislatively. But it is perhaps more important for parent, coaches and young people to have the knowledge that steroid use isn’t just illegal, it’s dangerous and sometimes deadly. That’s where the Zero Tolerance roundtables fit in.”

Following yesterday’s call, Curt Schilling commented, "I am excited at the potential impact this committee will have on America's youth. The ideas put forth, and recommendations made today have made me a believer of this committee. We will not sit idly by as more young American children die from illegal use of performance enhancing drugs. This committee will take action and proceed with haste to make young Americans everywhere understand the lethal potential of steroids, and at the same time make them accountable for their actions should they make the grievous and potentially fatal error to use illegal performance enhancing drugs."

Participants in the call – including representatives from Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League, and representatives from the labor unions of all four sports – discussed public education campaigns and other strategies to curtail illegal steroid use among young people.

More than 500,000 high school students – nearly the triple the number from 10 years earlier – have tried steroids, according to a 2003 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Other studies have detailed steroid use by even younger children, with new reports focusing on the use of steroids by young girls as a way of improving their body image.

Zero Tolerance will host a series of roundtable discussions across the country, with the first tentatively scheduled for late June.

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